

# THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

*pro bono humani generis*

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Joshua Lederberg  
UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

August 24, 1994

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Mr. Richard Perkin  
VZV Foundation  
40 E. 72 Street  
NY NY 10021

Dear Dick:

Thank you for sending me the info on the VZV Foundation. VZV is certainly a worthy target for the campaign you are mounting against it. I know that Bernie Roizman of the University of Chicago, one of the world's leading virologists, is very actively involved in molecular genetic studies of herpesviruses, and using that knowledge for vaccine development. I would urge you to talk to him about the prospects and obstacles bearing on his approaches.

As far as I know, there is very little herpesvirus work now going on at RU -- Prof. John D-E Young has given some attention to herpes uveitis. But our historic giants, Simon Flexner, Tom Rivers, Igor Tamm, and Ed Kilbourne laid the groundwork for our current knowledge of these viruses in the interval from the 1920s to 1960s. This is one of innumerable examples where the most basic research here has flowered into many important applications in years and decades following.

You asked particularly about the Winston and Revson Foundations. I have had no connection with Winston; and I am no longer on the Revson board. Both Winston and Revson sponsored extensive postdoctoral fellowship programs of their own: these were not focussed on any specific disease entity. You'd have to approach Eli Evans, Ex Dir of the Revson directly; but the last I know the postdoctoral fellowships were the unique channel for that foundation's interests in biomedical research.

I'd be happy to meet with you, perhaps lunch here (just call 212:327-7809) if there is any more that you would like to discuss about VZV, or anything else.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

  
Joshua Lederberg